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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,092	01/11/2006	Yuhji Andoh	2936-0259PUS1	7187
2292	7590	11/01/2006	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH				PELHAM, JOSEPH MOORE
PO BOX 747				ART UNIT
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				PAPER NUMBER
				3742

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/564,092	ANDOH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph M. Pelham	3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/1/10
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

The Examiner notes that the previous Office action, which did not examine the amended claims already filed by the International Searching Authority. This is a first action on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 6, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 54-127769.

Referring to Fig. 2, JP'769 discloses a steam cooker as claimed, including a steam generator 13, 14, a sub-cavity on the ceiling with steam heating means 22, 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 2-4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP'769 in view of US Pat. 5215000.

The claims differ substantively from JP'769 only in reciting a sub-cavity having a centered plurality of perforations which blow steam to "substantially wrap" the food placed in the oven. However, US'000, at Fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 9-19, a sub-cavity 4 having a centered plurality of perforations 51 which blow steam from an oven ceiling to "substantially wrap" the food placed in the oven. It would have been obvious to adapt the steam sub-cavity 4 of US'000 to the oven of JP'769, since US'000 teaches such to uniformly distribute steam over the entire surface of the food item. Moreover, while US'000 does not explicitly disclose the sub-cavity partition to be dark on both sides, this does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. It would have been obvious to so form the partition since dark ceramic or porcelain surfaces have long been conventional and avail to approximate the behavior of an ideal black-body, which re-radiates exactly what it absorbs.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph M. Pelham whose telephone number is 571-272-4786. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 571-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

10/24/06



JOSEPH PELHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER